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DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-5 and 8-11 have been cancelled.
2. Claims 12-20 are allowed.
3. The Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences affirmed the rejection(s) against independent claim(s) 1, but reversed all rejections against claim(s) 6 dependent thereon. The independent claim(s) is/are cancelled by the examiner in accordance with MPEP § 1214.06. Applicant is given a ONE MONTH TIME PERIOD from the mailing date of this letter in which to present dependent claim(s) 6-7 in independent form. NO EXTENSIONS OF TIME UNDER 37 CFR 1.136(a) WILL BE GRANTED. Failure to comply will result in cancellation of the dependent claims and the application will be allowed with claim(s) 12-20. Prosecution is otherwise closed.

Conclusion

4. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Julie Anne Watko whose telephone number is (571) 272-7597.

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The examiner can normally be reached on Mon & Fri, 9:30AM to 7:30PM, Tues-Thurs after 5PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrea L. Wellington can be reached on (571) 272-4483. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

/Julie Anne Watko/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2627

January 16, 2009
JAW